

Remarks

Please enter the amendment filed after final rejection as pertinent argument distinguishing the references as applied in the final rejection.

Claim 1 is amended to expressly require that the halftone screen be applied after the skew correction is applied. Such an embodiment is disclosed in Figure 5. The term “eliminate distortion” is amended to “reduce distortion” as “eliminate” may be unduly limiting.

In all but one of the claims which previously required identifying a vertical centerline of text characters (i.e., claims 2, 5, 6 and 15; claim 11 being unchanged), the language is changed to “bridge” adjoining blocks. The term “bridge” is supported at page 10, lines 1-5. This language encompasses a character being entirely shifted in a block in which it is partially in. Claim 11 is not changed because it is a refinement on this in that the center is found and the minority part is shifted with the majority part. Nevertheless, with respect to the other claims, if the center line must be found, an avoidance may be to the find edges but not compute the center. Similarly, if the minority must be shifted with the majority, then an avoidance may be to shift the majority, even though the results may be less than ideal. To assure a range of protection, the shifting of a minority of the character with its majority is added as new dependent claims 17, 18, and 19.

Upon consideration of the prior art as applied in the final rejection, the claims specific to computing a skew correction factor (claims 3, 8, 10, 13, and 18) are believed not to add significant patentable novelty over their parent claims. Those claims are canceled to facilitate prosecution.

In claim 4 the phrase “after the step of applying electronic printhead skew correction” is deleted as redundant and therefore potentially be confusing to the meaning of the claim.

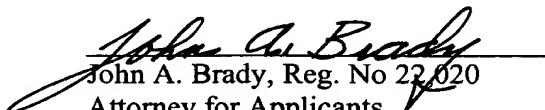
Similarly, claim 7 is canceled as redundant in view of claim 5.

Claim 14 is amended to more clearly be directed to the pre-compensated halftone screen alternative. The term "eliminate halftone noise" is amended to "reduce halftone noise" as "eliminate" may be unduly limiting.

The foregoing claims clearly distinguish over the prior art of record as previously discussed in the amendment after final rejection.

Accordingly reconsideration in due course is respectfully requested, followed by allowance of claim 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17-19, all of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Wesley Damon et al.


John A. Brady, Reg. No 22,020
Attorney for Applicants
Lexmark International, Inc.
Intellectual Property Law Dept.
740 W. New Circle Road
Lexington, KY 40550
(859) 232-4785